

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Seeking Better Seed Trade Practices

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture has announced the organization of a seed verification service, which is on a voluntary basis and which is made possible by the cooperation of interested seedsmen. At a recent conference in Chicago 64 applicants for the service were present, which is evidence of the wide interest on the part of representative seedsmen.

Canners are generally familiar with the long-standing interest of the National Canners Association in efforts to improve methods by which canners' seeds are bought and sold. Federal legislation has been proposed at various times as an aid in bringing about the desired improvements. Many conferences likewise have been held with Department of Agriculture officials and with groups or committees of seedsmen. The association's committee on Seed Contract Revision, under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Meulendyke, worked out a revised form of seed contract with the cooperation of a committee of the American Seed Trade Association, and this has been helpful in correcting some of the conditions which canners have felt were adverse to the buyer and user of seeds.

The seed verification service is another step in the right direction. While the service this year is limited to alfalfa, clovers and seed corn, Mr. W. A. Wheeler, who is in charge of the work, states that there is nothing in the attitude of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to prevent the extension of the service to include such crops as peas and beans whenever the demand may arise.

At the recent Chicago conference it was emphasized that the greatest care should be observed by applicants not to misrepresent verified origin seed and that there should be no statement or implication that the verified origin certificate carries with it any verification other than that of origin or place where grown. Information on origin, however, is often of great practical value to the canner purchasing sweet corn, peas, or beans.

The Department's announcement of the inauguration of the seed verification service contains the following explanation:

"Under this service the origin of a given lot of seed sold by an authorized vendor of inspected seed may, by an examination of records by a Federal seed inspector, be traced back to the place the seed was produced. Such records would cover all lots of seed from the time they are received from the grower until they leave the seedsmen's warehouses. In addition to the records themselves, files of samples of all lots offered for sale would afford another check on the identity of these lots.

"Under the proposed plan, seedsmen who comply with the regulations and provisions of the Department governing the service, may issue U. S. verified-origin seed certificates on seeds which have been previously verified as to origin by an authorized inspector.

"The outstanding feature of the service is the U. S. verified-origin seed certificates which will be used on tags or labels by seedsmen authorized by the Department to issue them. Those who are given the privileges of this service may announce the fact in a form approved by the Bureau, on letterheads, circulars or other advertising matter."

#### **It's Time to Think About Canned Foods Week**

Following the decision last June that Canned Foods Week should be postponed until the Spring of 1928, no further efforts were made to complete the fund needed to finance the campaign, owing to the fact that canners were busy with their packs. Those who had pledged contributions, however, were asked to let their pledges stand.

As the canning season is now practically ended, and as definite preparations for the Spring campaign must soon be started if it is to be made a big event, Chairman Royal F. Clark of the National Committee plans to present the subject at the meetings of the state canners associations that will be held within the next two months.

That the distributors and retailers are deeply interested in Canned Foods Week is shown by the numerous inquiries re-

ceived from both wholesalers and retailers who want to know the date of the campaign, the kind of materials that will be supplied, etc.

Canned Foods Week has become so well established as a sales event that neither the canner nor the distributor can afford to lose the good will developed by earlier campaigns, and it is hoped that when the subject is presented to the canners, they will give the financial support needed to continue this important work.

#### Attorney General Gives Opinion on Foreign Cost Studies Under Tariff Act

When an inquiry abroad is impracticable the U. S. Tariff Commission may make recommendations to the President, under the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act of 1922, without sending agents abroad to obtain information on the cost of production in competing countries, according to an opinion by Attorney General John G. Sargent. In his opinion, the Attorney General states:

"The Act specifies what the President shall take into consideration, so far as he finds it practicable, and requires the Commission to make an investigation to assist him, and that no proclamation shall be issued until that investigation has been made. The necessary inference is that the Tariff Commission is required to investigate and report on all those matters which the President is required to consider, and that a report of the Tariff Commission which does not deal with all the matters which the President is required to consider does not satisfy the statute. The President is required to take into consideration wages, costs of materials, and other items in the cost of production in the United States and in competing foreign countries so far as he finds it practicable, and unless it is impracticable to consider such matters the Tariff Commission is required to investigate and report upon them. While the decision as to whether matters specified in the statute may be omitted from consideration because it is impracticable to consider them rests finally with the President, the Commission must, in the first instance, exercise and express its judgment on that subject, with a view to assisting the President; and if the Commission, because it deems it impracticable, refrains from investigating and reporting upon any of the matters mentioned in subsection c (Section 315 of the Tariff Act), its report should disclose that the Commission considers the inquiry impracticable and the reasons for its conclusion, in order to enable the President to determine for himself whether it is impracticable to consider the matters in question.

"I am of the opinion that a report of the Commission, which discloses that no detailed investigation has been made into wages, costs of materials, and other items entering into the cost of production in competing foreign countries, and which determines costs of production abroad only by inference from the invoice prices of imported articles, fails to satisfy the requirements of the statute, unless it appears that the detailed investigation is impracticable.

"The word 'practicable' means possible or 'feasible,' and no doubt the provision in this statute that the conditions in production in competing foreign countries should be considered by the President 'in so far as he finds it practicable' was put there primarily to cover situations where, through obstructive methods by foreign producers or in foreign countries the Commission finds it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the necessary information; but the word 'practicable' also means 'capable of being used,' or 'usable,' and I am of the opinion that under the provisions of this statute the President may refrain from taking into consideration wages, costs of materials, and other items of production in competing foreign countries usually ascertainable by direct inquiry or field work where he finds that such an inquiry is impracticable in the sense of being futile."

#### September Exports of Canned Foods

Exports of canned vegetables, fruits, milk and salmon were smaller in September than during the same month last year, while shipments of sardines were considerably larger and those of canned meats showed a small gain. For the nine months ending with September, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926, all classes showed gains except canned milk. The detailed figures for September as announced by the Department of Commerce follow:

	September, 1926		September, 1927	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total . . . .	1,169,906	\$382,178	1,173,379	\$428,121
Beef . . . . .	189,298	61,865	107,639	33,427
Sausage . . . . .	327,796	93,967	217,299	61,760
Condensed milk . . . . .	3,000,663	436,532	2,439,132	383,923
Evaporated milk . . . . .	5,190,510	506,139	3,756,175	399,449
Canned vegetables, total.	12,009,136	1,061,830	8,281,872	778,627
Canned fruits, total . . . .	36,478,781	3,669,722	27,309,937	2,392,942
Apricots . . . . .	3,795,264	393,907	2,739,956	248,565
Peaches . . . . .	14,279,996	1,402,112	9,136,964	721,885
Pears . . . . .	10,091,215	1,056,713	6,429,168	642,451
Pineapple . . . . .	5,512,702	496,894	7,082,707	564,517
Salmon . . . . .	8,926,149	1,583,852	2,245,535	393,296
Sardines . . . . .	4,954,076	448,204	6,574,821	572,379

### Cuba Adopts Revised Tariff

Under the new Cuban tariff, effective October 26, changes are made in the duties on canned foods, but imports from the United States will continue to receive preferential treatment as provided under the Reciprocity Treaty of 1902. As under the former tariff, rates applied to canned foods from the United States are lower than the general rates by the following percentages: Fish and shellfish, 25 per cent; preserved vegetables and garden products, 30 per cent; preserved fruits, 40 per cent; other alimentary preserves, 20 per cent.

In the revision of the Cuban tariff, the duties on canned foods have been changed from an ad valorem to a specific rate basis. Under the former tariff, the ad valorem rates on canned foods from the United States were as follows: Fish and shellfish, 24.375 per cent; preserved vegetables and garden products, 22.75 per cent; preserved fruits, 19.5 per cent; other alimentary preserves, 20 per cent.

The new tariff provides specific rates for individual articles in these classes, and the rates on products from the United States, effective October 26, are as follows:

	Rate per kilo (2.2 lbs.)
Fish or shellfish preserved in oil or in any other form in cans or other containers:	
Anchovies .....	\$.0225
Bonito and tunny fish .....	.1125
Squid without filling .....	.1125
Squid with filling .....	.30
Sardines with the bones, in tomato or in oil, or ordinary market variety .....	.03
Sardines without bones, smoked, seasoned or prepared in any form, or those that without combining these conditions are of fine elaboration .....	.225
Salmon .....	.15
Other fish or shellfish .....	<sup>a</sup> .09
Vegetables and garden products preserved and packed in any form:	
Tomatoes and tomato paste or puree .....	.126
Olives "au naturel," packed, with a weight of more than 2 kilos .....	<sup>b</sup> .80
Olives "au naturel," packed, with a weight of 2 kilos or less .....	.035
Olives, stuffed, seasoned or prepared in any kind of container .....	.14
Pimentos .....	.105
Peppers and other products .....	.084
Preserved fruits, in brandy, in sirup or in any other form:	
Citrus fruits .....	.096
Pears, peaches, plums, apricots and others .....	.072
Other alimentary preserves:	
Sauces, mustards and alimentary extracts for seasoning.	.128

<sup>a</sup> Plus 15 per cent ad valorem.

<sup>b</sup> Per 100 kilos.

The tariff specifically prohibits the importation of squid known as "chocos," the polyps, and "chicharros" and "espadines."

In addition to the duties set out in the tariff, Cuba levies surtaxes on imports of canned foods as follows: Fish and shellfish and preserved vegetables and garden products, 3 per cent of the duty; preserved fruits and other alimentary preserves, 10 per cent of the duty.

Because of the change of the rates from an ad valorem to a specific rate basis, it is impracticable to show how far the tariff will increase or decrease the actual duties. Whatever the effect, however, the United States will still enjoy the same degree of preferential treatment as under the former tariff.

#### Forecast on Cucumbers for Pickles

The production of cucumbers for pickles in 1927, according to estimates issued by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics under date of October 20, will be 2,537,000 bushels, as compared with 3,637,000 bushels in 1926 and 6,814,000 bushels in 1925.

#### Proposed Freight Rate Changes Will Become Effective

Protest against the proposed changes in freight rates on canned foods from Tellico Plains, Tenn., to points in Alabama and Tennessee having been withdrawn, the Interstate Commerce Commission has set aside its order of June 7 suspending the proposed changes until January 8, 1928, and has ordered that the proceeding be discontinued.

#### Army Asks Bids on Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer, First Avenue and 58th St., Brooklyn, is advertising for bids on various foodstuffs, bids to be opened on November 5. The circular proposal (Sub. 626-28-83) calls for bids on the following canned foods: beans with pork and tomato sauce, salmon, apples, apricots, asparagus, green beans, catsup, sweet, white or Royal Anne cherries, cream-style corn, oysters, cling peaches, Bartlett pears, peas, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, smoked sardines, Vienna style sausage, dry-pack shrimp, soups, and spinach.

#### Up-to-date Bulletin Issued on Corn Borer

In a report by D. J. Caffrey and L. H. Worthley of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, just issued by the Department of Agriculture, the newest methods of controlling the European corn



borer are presented in a comprehensive and popular manner. The practices discussed, it is stated, will not eradicate the corn borer, for this is impossible, but by following the advice given, damage by the pest may be kept down to a minimum. The report is published as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1548-F under the title "The European Corn Borer, Its Present Status and Methods of Control."

#### Freight Loadings Increase

Loadings of revenue freight for the week ended October 15 totaled 1,119,872 cars, an increase of 19,820 over the preceding week, but a decrease of 82,908 cars from the corresponding week in 1926. Loadings of all commodities increased except ore and merchandise and less-than-carload lot freight.

#### Mexican Bean Beetle Spread Rapidly This Season

The Mexican bean beetle has apparently spread more rapidly this season than in any other since its introduction into the Eastern states, according to an announcement by the U. S. Bureau of Entomology. It has been reported from Norfolk, Arlington, and Vienna, Va., Lumberton, N. C., Lambertville, Mich., and Silver Springs, N. Y. The statement asks observers to report its occurrence in their territory. A note in the Information Letter for September 24, called attention to the Mexican bean beetle causing crop damage in western New York.

#### Kansas City Distribution Census Reported

The results of the census of distribution of Kansas City, Mo., have been announced by the U. S. Census Bureau and show that, as in Denver, the largest annual sales were made by wholesale livestock establishments. Next to the livestock establishments the largest sales were made by the wholesale and retail hay, grain and feed establishments. The sales of wholesale and retail grocery and delicatessen establishments ranked third, 88 of these establishments being classed wholesale and 1,122 as retail. The total sales of these two classes in 1926 amounted to \$153,883,000, and they gave employment to 5,939 persons.

#### Effect of British Regulations on Canned Pea Imports

The American consul at Liverpool, England, reports that the recent British pure-food regulations forbidding the use of copper sulphate as a coloring agent have cut down imports of canned peas from the Continent, formerly the chief source of supply. Canadian packers, it is said, are endeavoring to fill

the breach, but Belgian and Italian packers are now coming forward with uncolored peas which are selling at from 9s. 6d. to 12s. per dozen, ex warehouse, Liverpool, for quarts, and 5s. 3d. to 6s. per dozen, ex warehouse, Liverpool, for pints.

#### Revised Bulletin on Research Agencies

The 1927 edition of "Market Research Agencies," which has just been issued by the Department of Commerce, contains reports on 544 more agencies than were listed in the first edition of that publication. The bulletin presents its data under five main research groups: (1) Federal Government; (2) State and Municipal Governments; (3) Colleges, Universities and Foundations; (4) Book publishers; (5) Commercial organizations. The bulletin is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 15 cents a copy.

#### Commercial Grading of Raisins

Methods for determination of the grades of raisins delivered to the packing houses by growers have been worked out by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Raisin Association of California. The results of the studies are now made available in Technical Bulletin No. 1-T, "Tests for Commercial Standardization of Raisins," copies of which can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

#### Italian Fish Catch and Trade

The catch of fish in Italy during 1926 has been estimated at 25,352,900 pounds of sardines and anchovies, 3,966,280 pounds of tunny and 177,911,220 pounds of other species, the total catch having a value of \$18,711,000. About one-tenth of the catch was salted or canned. The Italians are large consumers of fish, it is reported by the American commercial attache, the imports of fish products in 1926 being greater than those of all kinds of meat, chickens and eggs. Chum salmon and French sardines enjoy great popularity at present.

#### Statistical Abstract Ready for Distribution

The Statistical Abstract for 1926, it is announced by the U. S. Department of Commerce, is now ready for distribution. This book is a condensed but comprehensive summary of statistical data on manufacturing, mining, agriculture, foreign commerce, transportation, vital statistics, etc. Copies are sold by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, for \$1.00.